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ATEN CubiQ 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch Review

By Shane N. | 08-21-2011 | Categories: Hardware Misc

Contents:

1. CubiQ Introductio
2. CubiQ Contents
3. CubiQ Features
4. CubiQ Conclusion

A KVM switch is a device that allows a user to control multiple computers from a single keyboard, video monitor and mouse. If you needed to have three computers on and didn't want to have three separate keyboards and mice just to control them, then a KVM switch is what you would invest in. They kind of expensive for the average consumer but they are great for anyone that needs to access multiple computers while using one keyboard and mouse. And most KVM switches are compatible with Mac, PC, and Linux which makes it very versatile for anyone.

can see that this product will be great for home offices, small businesses, and average consumers as well because of its function and usability. Today I will be review the CubiQ 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch from our friends over at ATEN. I have never reviewed a KVM switch before so it should be intriguing on what it does and how well it performs. Now let's take a look at what comes inside with the ATEN CubiQ 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch.

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ATEN® Simply Better Connections™

- 1 CM0264 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch
- 4 Custom KVM Cable Sets (2 x DVI-D; 2 x HDMI)
- 1 Power Adapter
- 1 USB-to-PS/2 Converter
- 1 Foot pad set (4 pcs)
- 1 User Manual
- 1 Quick Start Guide

There is not much to say about the aesthetics of the CubiQ since it's just a long rectangular block. It is pretty small and has a nice black finish all around. It also comes with all the necessary cords in order to plug into any computer you need it to. These are custom KVM cables that are made specifically for the CubiQ. There is also an USB-to-PS/2 converter that allows you to plug in older mice that still have the PS/2 cord.

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On the front side there is an audio port, microphone port, and USB 2.0 port. On the rear side there many different ports that allows you to connect to all four computer device directly. Each DVI port or HDMI port has its own complimentary audio and microphone ports. There are also four HDMI ports, three DVI ports, and various USB 2.0 ports. On the back of the box it shows that you should be able to connect to your PS3 as well to this KVM switch however I was never able to test this since I did not have a PS3 lying around. Being able to connect to PC, Mac, Linux, and PS3 is an amazingly compatible switch that will definitely be beneficial for any user.

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Setting up the CubiQ could not be any simpler than just matching up the cords and plugging them into the device. It was very easy to install. Once I had the CubiQ set up, I was amazed at how responsive the mouse was when controlling the other computers. There was almost no lag when moving to another computer screen and there are some features that come along with this setup.

Dual Display Console

With the dual display console you can switch between four high definition video sources on two displays. You can switch between all four computers with two full screens that allows for maximum customizability. Being able to control all four computers at the same time was impressive and useful. I could have a few apps open on my Mac and then control my PC for other tasks I needed to complete.

File Management

The feature of file management is probably the most beneficial I got to test with this device. The CubiQ allows you to transfer files from one computer to the next. This allowed me to work on

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the same file whether I was on my Mac or PC. If I needed to transfer a certain file from my Mac to PC I would just use the GUI and transfer it very quickly. I did not record the transfer rates of read and write but it definitely had no problem transfer simple documents. Transferring bigger files such as movies and programs took a bit longer but it transferred the file relatively fast. I really liked this feature since I could move any file to any other computer and keep working on it if need be. This made the KVM switch really feel like it connected all the computers harmoniously.

Picture-in-picture (PIP) 3n1 view mode

They have also included a picture-in-picture that allows you to see all the other three computer screens on one monitor. This was a very nice feature that allowed me to look at the computers while controlling my main computer on the full screen. However, I would not recommend running a bunch of applications on all four computers in this mode because I did notice a bit of lag during testing. Having all three computer screens display on the main one with apps made the mouse a bit slow. Still a great feature if you just need it for performing smaller tasks while controlling all four computers.

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Overall, the ATEN CubiQ 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch is a great product that allows you control multiple computers with the same mouse and keyboard. They have great features such as Dual Display Console, File Management, and Picture-in-picture 3n1 view mode. These features allowed me to control all four computers simultaneously, monitor all computer screens on one screen, and transfer files between them. I would definitely recommend this product to any user that needs to control multiple computers without the hassle of using 4 different keyboards and mice to control them.

The only thing I would advise people on is that they shouldn't run big applications when using the Picture-in-picture mode. It was great for monitor other computers while using the main computer however it did lag a bit when I ran a lot of programs on each computer. The ATEN CubiQ 2x4 DVI-HDMI Matrix KVMP Switch is an amazing product that is great for small businesses, home offices, and daily consumers. Its priced around 300 dollars and is a great device for any hardcore multitasking with multiple computers on.

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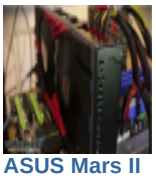

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